

Dear Members,

I would again like to provide an update on the situation at the Ambassador Bridge as the blockades enter the fifth day. Understand, that the situation is still very fluid and evolving. Our officers on the ground continue to work hard to prevent situations from escalating. Negotiations have been very dynamic, at times they have been very difficult and it would seem that we are at an impasse, but other times we are making headway.

For now, we are continuing to take a diplomatic approach and our goal is still to open traffic so it flows freely to and from the Bridge. We have acquired the services of a number of external police personnel who are assisting on the ground. Currently, we have had no significant issues managing the protest and the numbers of demonstrators has remained consistent for the past couple of days.

As of this morning there are approximately 200 protestors and 100 vehicles in and around the site. Yet this number is always fluctuating. At the time of this writing, WPS had the three northbound lanes at Huron Church Road between College and Tecumseh closed and travel to and from Canada is still blocked.

On Thursday, February 10, the Automotive Corporations and City the City of Windsor applied for a Court Injunction. The purpose of the injunction is to restrain named and unnamed Defendants from establishing a blockade or in any way impeding access to the Bridge. I will be present when this matter is heard in the Superior Court of Justice today at noon. The Injunction “may” authorize police to remove protestors. It is up to the discretion of the Command Centre whether or not it will be enforced. Again, we will continue to dissuade the protestors from blocking the roadway; at the same time we must balance the protection of the public, allowing traffic to pass on the Bridge and the freedom of assembly and expression.

This event is being broadcast worldwide, not only by mainstream media but also via social media. This week, I have received media requests from not only our local media, but also from Automotive News Canada, Global Radio, Global News Toronto, 640 Toronto, City TV, Canadian News, CityNews Toronto, Le Devoir, CNN, NBC News, ABC News and BBC World News.

To the officers on ground, I encourage you to be safe and urge for your continued patience and professionalism. In line with principles of Incident Command we have adopted a scripted Mission Statement that I encourage you to reiterate when dealing with protestors or the media: **The Windsor Police Service will keep the peace, enforce legislation, establish and maintain the safe flow of traffic and respecting individuals Charter Rights to peaceful assembly and Freedom of Speech with public and officer safety being paramount.**

This has been a challenging and stressful week for all. To all members on the frontlines, I sincerely thank you for your efforts; your dedication, professionalism and tolerance have been outstanding. I have the utmost confidence that this will continue as this situation prolongs. You can be confident that you have my full support and that of the entire Senior Leadership Team. Please keep yourself safe and take time to rest and recover as much as possible.

We must not forget that while the protest is drawing the bulk of our resources to the Ambassador Bridge, there are many members who are maintaining our policing response throughout the City and

Amherstburg. In an interview with CTV yesterday, I was able to assure the public that the WPS was continuing to provide policing services to our communities.

Again, thank you. I will do my best to keep you updated throughout the weekend.

Sincerely,